

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/988,286

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has added new claim 11. Thus, claims 1-2 and 5-11 are now pending in the application. In response to the Office Action (Paper No. 8), Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 5-7 to improve clarity.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda et al. (USP 5,955,810; hereinafter "Umeda") in view of Csaki (USP 3,603,824) and Sekyra (USP 2,194,620). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of Csaki, Sekyra and Applicant's admitted prior art (Fig. 18). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of Csaki, Sekyra and Janette (USP 1,651,059). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Umeda in view of Csaki, Sekyra and Hyatt, Jr. et al. (USP 5,990,594; hereinafter "Hyatt"). Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention would not have been rendered obvious in view of the applied references.

In the Amendment filed May 30, 2002, Applicant argued that the combined references do not teach or suggest that "a connection portion for connecting said holding assembly terminal and said brush terminal being disposed in said open portion", as recited in amended independent claim 1. That is, as shown in Figures 5 and 11 of the present application, the brush terminal connected to the brushes and the holding assembly terminal of the brush holding assembly are exposed at the open portion and secured together by a screw. Thus, electrical connection of the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/988,286

holding assembly terminals and the brushes is simple, and the operation of replacing the brushes is improved.

In response to the arguments for patentability, the Examiner maintains that Sekyra (Figure 3) discloses a holding assembly terminal (24) formed integrally by a resin molding and electrically connected to brush terminal mounted to a wire (27) connected to the brushes by a connection member (32) which is disposed in an open portion. In particular, as best understood by the Applicant, it appears that the Examiner is asserting that the end face of the externally threaded extension 32 of the metal plug 31 (of the casing cap 30) corresponds to the claimed brush terminal, the resin (Bakelite) cover 24 corresponds to the claimed holding assembly terminal, and the threaded extension 32 of the casing cap 30 corresponds to the claimed connection member. However, the cover 24 is not a terminal but rather is simply an outer resin shell surrounding the hollow metal core 20 which houses the brush 10. Further, the end face of the externally threaded extension 32 of the metal plug 31 is not a brush terminal.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references disclose that a connection portion for connecting the holding assembly terminal and the brush terminal is disposed in the open portion (formed at a position on the case facing the cover), as claimed. That is, Sekyra discloses that the brush and the holding assembly (casing) are connected inside the holding assembly such that the connection portion for connecting the holding assembly terminal and the brush terminal can not be disposed in the open portion. Similarly, the other applied references fail to teach or suggest this feature of the present invention.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/988,286

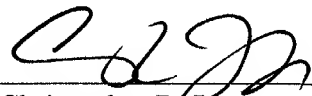
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as well as dependent claims 2 and 5-10, should be allowable because the combined references do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims.

By this Amendment, Applicant has added new dependent claim 11 to further define the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 should be allowable over the prior art of record because the cited references do not teach or suggest that the holding assembly terminal, the brush terminal and the connection member are exposed in the open portion.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lipp
Registration No. 41,157

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: November 14, 2002

Attorney Docket No.: Q67251

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/988,286

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

5. (Amended) The alternator according to Claim [3] 1, wherein said connection member is a screw.

6. (Amended) The alternator according to Claim 5, wherein said screw is inserted into and removed from [said] a connection portion where said holding assembly terminal and said brush terminal are connected in a circumferential direction relative to said rotor.

7. (Amended) The alternator according to Claim 5, wherein said screw is inserted into and removed from [said] a connection portion where said holding assembly terminal and said brush terminal are connected in an axial direction relative to said rotor.

Claim 11 is added as a new claim.